

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-27 and add new claims 21-46 as follows.

1.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A consumable comprising:

at least one material selected from the group consisting of image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material,

a first identifier indicative of the origin of the consumable, and

a second identifier indicative of the supplier of the consumable.

22. (New) A method of making a consumable comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of an image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material, the method comprising:

at a manufacturing location marking the consumable with a first identifier indicative of the origin of the consumable; and

at a secondary location, marking the consumable with a second identifier indicative of the supplier the consumable.

23. (New) A method of operating a printing apparatus which is adapted to receive a consumable, the method comprising:

reading an identifier from the consumable, comparing the identifier against a list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables, and

generating an invalid indication if there is a match.

24. (New) A method according to claim 23, further comprising:

reading a secondary identifier from the consumable, the secondary identifier identifying a supplier of the consumable, and displaying information about the supplier of a consumable.

25. (New) A printing apparatus using a consumable associated with an identifier, the apparatus comprising:

a printer mechanism for printing an image onto an image receiving substrate;

a reader for reading the identifier;

a storage medium for holding a list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables; and

a processor arranged to compare the identifier read by the reader with the list of any previously used identifiers and to generate an invalid indication if there is a match.

26. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the reader comprises an RF coil.

27. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the storage medium is arranged to hold a table comprising a plurality of identifier fields associated with respective status fields.

28. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the storage medium is arranged to hold a table comprising a plurality of identifier fields associated with respective status fields.
29. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the processor is arranged to load into one of said identifier fields an identifier read by the reader which does not match a previously used identifier.
30. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the processor is arranged to load into one of said identifier fields an identifier read by the reader which does not match a previously used identifier.
31. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a usage monitor for monitoring the usage of the consumable.
32. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the processor is arranged to update the status field to indicate the amount of consumable remaining based on the usage monitored by the usage monitor.
33. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the consumable comprises a supply of an image receiving substrate.
34. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the usage monitor comprises an end of substrate detector.

35. (New) A printing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the consumable comprises a supply of thermal transfer material.

36. (New) In combination, a printing apparatus and a consumable associated with an identifier, wherein the printing apparatus comprises:

a printer mechanism for printing an image onto an image receiving substrate;

a reader for reading the identifier;

a storage medium for holding a list of any previously used identifiers associated with empty consumables; and

a processor arranged to compare the identifier read by the reader with the list of any previously used identifiers and to generate an invalid indication if there is a match.

37. (New) A combination according to claim 36, wherein the consumable comprises a cassette in which the image receiving substrate is housed.

38. (New) A combination according to claim 36, wherein the consumable comprises a spool around which the image receiving substrate is wound.

39. (New) A combination according to claim 36, wherein the consumable comprises a supply of thermal transfer material.

40. (New) A consumable comprising:

at least one material selected from the group consisting of image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material,

a first identifier which uniquely identifies the consumable, and

a second identifier indicative of the supplier of the consumable.

41. (New) A consumable comprising:

at least one material selected from the group consisting of image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material,

a first identifier programmed during fabrication, and

a second identifier additionally inserted to the first identifier and including information indicative of the supplier of the consumable.

42. (New) A consumable according to claim 41, wherein the information indicative of the supplier of the consumable is contact information of the supplier.

43. (New) A consumable according to claim 21, wherein said first and second identifiers are carried on the same tag.

44. (New) A consumable according to claim 22, wherein said first and second identifiers are carried on the same tag.

45. (New) A consumable according to claim 40, wherein said first and second identifiers are carried on the same tag.

46. (New) A consumable according to claim 41, wherein said first and second identifiers are carried on the same tag.

47. (New) A consumable according to claim 43, wherein said tag is an RF tag.

48. (New) A consumable according to claim 44, wherein said tag is an RF tag.

49. (New) A consumable according to claim 45, wherein said tag is an RF tag.

50. (New) A consumable according to claim 46, wherein said tag is an RF tag.

51. (New) A method of making a consumable comprising:

at least one material selected from the group consisting of an image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material, the method comprising:

marking the consumable with a first identifier which uniquely defines the consumable, and additionally marking the consumable with a second identifier indicative of the supplier of the consumable.

52. (New) A method of making a consumable comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of an image receiving substrate and thermal transfer material, the method comprising:

marking the consumable with a first identifier during manufacturing; and
inserting additionally to the first identifier a second identifier, including information indicative of the supplier of the consumable.